

San Bartolo Ranch  
Zapata, Texas.

HABS No. Tex-3113

HABS  
TEX  
253-ZAP.V.  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Texas-3

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer  
615 Maverick Bldg., San Antonio, Texas.

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SAN BARTOLO RANCH  
Zapata, Zapata County, Texas.

Present Owner: Pablo Coranado

Date of Erection: 1867-76

Architect: Luis Gutierrez

Builder: Luis Gutierrez

Present Condition: Poor

Number of Stories: One

Materials of Construction: Sandstone, cypress, oak and mesquite.

Other Existing Records: None

Additional Data:

The group today consists of five buildings, all standing and habitable. Three of the original buildings are now in complete ruins. Both flat and pitched roofs occurred on the buildings, the flat roofs being built of native concrete known as "Chipichil"; the pitched roofs were covered with hand split cypress shingles. These buildings were built from January 1st, 1867 to June 16, 1876 by Luis Gutierrez and his followers.

Zapata was one of the main ports of entry into Mexico from the middle to the latter part of the nineteenth century. The old custom house was located about a quarter of a mile West of San Bartolo Ranch. The only existing ferry for many miles either up or down the Rio Grande River was located at this place. People from points as far away as Corpus Christi came here to enter Mexico.

The present International bridge is located about two miles east of old San Bartolo, connecting the towns of Zapata on the American side and Guereco on the Mexican side. Zapata is about one mile east of the bridge, while Guerrero is seven miles southwest in Mexico.

This part of Zapata County is one of the few localities, either up or down the river on both sides, which still celebrates San Juan's Day on June 24th. San Juan was the patron saint of the "cabaleros" or cowboys.

In 1913 and 1914, just prior to and during the last major Mexican revolution, approximately seventy five per cent of the population of the little town of Guerreo migrated to the United States and settled in and around Zapata. They have never gone back; consequently the little town of Guerreo is greatly a "ghost" town.

The architectural features of San Bartolo are practically repetitions of the Mexican architecture in Guerreo. San Bartolo was one of the first Mexican settlements in the United States.

Two houses of the group have rafters inscriptions as follows:  
Se Edificio Esta Casa el 1 De Enero de 1867 Sirvo Ami Dueño Y la Honora (This building of this house the 1st of January 1867, Serving the honor of my master.) Ce Edificio esta Casa el Dia de 16th Junio en el and de 1876 sirvo ami dueño. (This building of this house the 16th day of June in the year of 1876 serving my master) Signature of Luis Gutierrez.

This information was secured from Carlita Gutierrez of Zapata, Texas.

Author: Homer H. Lansberry  
Homer H. Lansberry

APPROVED: Bartlett Cocke  
Bartlett Cocke, District Officer.

Date: December 3, 1936